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15 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Special Group Meeting, 15 March 1962

PRESENT: General Taylor, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Gilpatrick and Mr. McCone

Dr. Scoville, of CIA, and Colonel Steckley and Major Moran, of DOD, were present for Item 1.

1. Responsibility of COMOR

Mr. McCone stated his opinion that all overflights should be considered by COMOR and thence by USIB before presentation to the Special Group. Mr. Gilpatrick agreed that this was reasonable; he commented that in case of basic disagreement the way would always be open to appeal to the Special Group.

2. [redacted]

Mr. McCone touched briefly on the history of this project and stated that he proposes to allocate another [redacted] out of FY 62 funds. This would make a total of [redacted] for the current fiscal year. He noted that this amount could be absorbed by savings in the Agency budget and, therefore, the project would not have to be discussed with the Bureau of the Budget. He also said that he has tentatively budgeted [redacted] for FY 63. The Group approved.

3. Resettlement of the Hmoes

Mr. Johnson said that Mr. Fitzgerald, of CIA, had reported that it would be impossible to resettle the Hmoes in Southern Laos without moving them through Thailand. The Group agreed that there was no requirement to discuss further with the Thais at this time either resettlement in their country or transit for movement to Southern Laos. It was agreed that in view of the current fluidity of the political situation, there is no point in planning further than the broad generalities envisaged in the paper tabled last week. This paper was considered to be acceptable in this context.

NSC review(s) completed.

See Special Minutes
for additional items.

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4. British Customs

It was agreed that the Group could not usefully deal with this subject at this time, and it was deferred until later.

5. Chinese Nationalist Plans for the Mainland

It was agreed that the Group could not usefully deal with this subject at this time, and it was deferred until later.

Thomas A. Farrott

Distribution

Mr. Johnson
Mr. Gilpatric
Mr. McCone
General Taylor